

Mayor's Night Out Magnolia Center February 23, 2005

Resident #1

There needs to be a left hand turn lane at Central Avenue and Carlo Drive. People stop to turn left and the traffic is coming at 50mph.

There is not sufficient room on Central Avenue at Carlo Drive to add a left turn lane. For additional information contact Senior Engineer Patti Castillo in Traffic Engineering at (951) 826-5148.

Resident #2

- **Potential beautification project – on the corner of Pachappa Drive and Olivewood Way, there's a plot of dirt on Olivewood Way that has never been improved. Who owns it and why doesn't it look right?**

This particular strip of land belongs to the property located at 5530 Olivewood. Code Compliance will be sending a notice to correct for maintenance. If you have further questions, you may call Code Compliance at (951) 826-5633.

- **Why is the Riverside Plaza closing the internal road on Friday and Saturday nights?**

The Police Department noted problems on opening night with some fights and the resulting congregating of vehicles in the "Main Street" drive thru area. The potential for problems with people in their vehicles driving through there has been anticipated. Another concern was the children exiting the movies and running uncontrolled from the theater to the shops (specifically the ice cream shop) directly across from the front of the theater. Due to these issues, the department met with officials of the Plaza and suggested a solution of closing the Main Street to thru traffic. Management agreed to do so on Friday and Saturday. For additional information please contact Riverside Police Lieutenant Chuck Griffiths, the North Area Neighborhood Policing Center Commander, at (951) 351-6045.

- **There is a railroad overpass area there where there is dirt, weeds, and trash; why is this not maintained by the city?**

The railroad overpass area is owned by Union Pacific Railroad and they have been contacted to clean and maintain that area. The City has the ability to address graffiti and removal of debris near their right-of-way, but the City is unable to access Railroad property, due to the railroad's concerns regarding liability. For more information contact

Public Works Field Operations Manager Danilo Batson at (951) 351-6127 or Union Pacific Railroad Track Maintenance Manager Jay Mondrant at (909) 879-6188.

Resident #3

The trash throughout the city is terrible. What can be done? We need more clean-up days, more street sweeping, or free days at the dump.

The City of Riverside offers a multitude of free opportunities to get rid of waste. The following is a list of all the opportunities residents are provided:

- Residential customers are provided with two (2) free bulky item pick-ups each calendar year. These pick ups allow for disposal of furniture, appliances (no refrigerators), trimmings, and other large, non-hazardous items. Loads are limited to 3 cubic yards per pick up.
- Free curbside refrigerator and air conditioner disposal for residents. The resident needs to call the contractor, ARCA, at 800-654-2722 to schedule a pick up date. The contractor will then come to the resident's house and pick up the items at the curb.
- Free curbside used oil and used oil filter collection program to all residents. The resident needs to call 800-698-4377 to schedule a pick up of used oil and used oil filters. Oil containers are also available to residents as well and can be delivered at the time of pick up.
- One day a month there is a free drop off day at the Agua Mansa Transfer Station, 1850 Agua Mansa Road, for all residents. Residents can dispose of trash, yard waste, recycling, bulky items, tires and refrigerators. There is no charge to residents, but residents must provide a proof of residency at the time of disposal. There is a limit of up to one ton per load. The remaining Free Drop Off Days this year are: March 19, 2005, April 16, 2005, May 21, 2005, June 18, 2005.
- Four times a year, there is a Household Hazardous Waste event. This event accepts used oil, used oil filters, paint, ewaste (computers, television, fluorescent light bulbs, etc.), tires, and refrigerators. This event is held at the city corporation yard, 8095 Lincoln Ave, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. The last event for this year is scheduled for June 11, 2005.
- Twice per year, the city provides an Incredible BULK event. This provides five different locations strategically placed throughout the city. These locations accept ewaste (computers, televisions, fluorescent light bulbs, etc.), bulky items, tires, and appliances. The next Incredible BULK event is scheduled for May 7, 2005.

If you have any questions you may call Senior Office Specialist Christina Foster in Public Works at (951) 826-5689. You may also access information regarding trash pick-up on the web at <http://www.riversideca.gov/cure/schedule.htm>.

Resident #4

Concern with a proposal to close off Brockton at Central Avenue and make a right turn only option. Because there are four main boulevards, Palm Avenue already takes 18% of traffic and Brockton Avenue takes 22%. Closing off Brockton Avenue would be a mistake at this point. There should be more discussion; will there be and where?

The intersection of Brockton Avenue/Central Avenue/Magnolia Avenue is part of the Magnolia Avenue Specific Plan. The Magnolia Avenue Specific Plan will be addressed in the General Plan Update. Public input will be taken during the public hearings when this matter is before the Planning Commission and City Council. For more information contact Senior Engineer Patti Castillo in Traffic Engineering at (951) 826-5148.

Resident #5

A 1987 application for a rehabilitation loans grant was passed over in 1994 by an award of a grant elsewhere for a house in the same need as mine. I qualify for 3 grants: disabled person, senior citizen, and emergency grants. Code compliance manager finds my residence in dire need of major rehabilitation.

The City and the resident are dealing with the specific situation. The City of Riverside has a program that helps individuals and families fix-up their homes. Currently, a \$35,000 low interest loan and a \$5,000 grant (seniors and the disabled only) are available. The program is offered city-wide and is administered by the Riverside Housing Development Corporation (RHDC). The Riverside Housing Development Corporation can be reached at (951) 341-6511.

Resident #6

I understand that Riverside is becoming a “walkable community,” but there is no sidewalk on San Diego Avenue between Central Avenue and Nelson Avenue, and kids end up walking in the street.

We are working to place this area in our Capital Improvement Program (CIP), however it may take up to two years to complete this project. The area on San Diego Avenue between Central Avenue and Nelson Avenue is a priority based on its close proximity to a school. For additional information please contact Philip Hannawi in the Public Works Department at (951) 826-5706.

Resident #7

There was talk of a Riverside Plaza sign on the Freeway. What is the status of this and the size?

It will take special legislation to put the Plaza sign up on the Freeway. Legislation, authored by Assemblyman John Benoit and co-sponsored by Assembly members Bill Emmerson and Ray Haynes, is still pending and can be tracked on-line at

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>. The bill number is AB 1499. The size and design will be set by the City Council by public hearing if the bill is approved. The current proposed location for the sign is on the eastbound exit of the 91 freeway on the utilities substation property.

Resident #8

- **Are there any loan programs available to homeowners in this area for property improvements?**

The City of Riverside has a program that helps individuals and families fix-up their homes. Currently, a \$35,000 low interest loan and a \$5,000 grant (seniors and the disabled only) are available. The Program is offered city-wide and is administered by the Riverside Housing Development Corporation (RHDC). The Riverside Housing Development Corporation can be reached at (951) 341-6511.

- **My residence backs to the Brockton Arcade, where the alley is extremely littered and looks like an urban blight. Who is responsible for keeping the alley clean? There are also many homeless people who gather in this back area.**

The adjacent property owners are responsible for keeping the alley clean. In cases of illegal dumping, please call the Public Works Street Services Division at (951) 351-6127.

Resident #9

It's absolutely fabulous that the new movie theater has "closed caption" movies for the deaf weekly. The "deaf community" is deeply grateful; I know first-hand! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Open captioning, visible as subtitles to all viewers, (as opposed to closed captioning used on television as an option) is featured on showings of first-run films at the new Riverside Plaza Stadium 16 theaters, which enable deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons to enjoy an outing to the movies without having to leave Riverside. Inclusion of this feature in the new theaters was the result of the active input of many community groups, including the Model Deaf Community Committee, Human Relations Commission, California School for the Deaf-Riverside, Center on Deafness-Inland Empire and the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce. This effort was met with the strong corporate support of Regal Entertainment Group, operators of the new theater complex. Please see local listings for scheduled open captioned screenings. For more information contact Steven Frasher, Assistant to the Mayor and staff liaison to the Model Deaf Community Committee, at (951) 826-5147.

Resident #10

- **The newspaper stated that the issue regarding the shopping carts ordinance is being held up for Chamber of Commerce review and suggestions. What alternatives are being discussed?**

The Shopping Cart Ordinance is still being discussed by the Chamber of Commerce. The Ordinance will be sent to the Public Safety Committee in April and will then be sent to the Riverside City Council in May. Currently, the Chamber of Commerce is working with retail and grocery stores to determine how often they have to use the retrieval services. In areas where the shopping cart problem is worse grocery and retail stores will be required to use the retrieval services more often. If you have any questions please contact the Chamber of Commerce President Cindy Roth at (951) 683-7100.

- **When will Magnolia Center get its Area Police Service Center back now that the Riverside Plaza is back? Mission Grove is not Magnolia Center!**

Currently the trend is to move away from the Area Policing Centers; the center at California and Monroe has recently closed and the one in Mission Grove is scheduled for closure soon. The department found that the number of persons utilizing the facilities did not support their existence. It is not anticipated that the Plaza will have a new storefront.

The city is currently divided into four Neighborhood Policing Centers. North and East are housed at Lincoln Station. Central and West are currently also at Lincoln, but are to move, upon completion of retrofitting, the Magnolia Police Facility. The Orange Street facility will remain as the Administrative Headquarters. Each of these stations will have a full service records bureau to take care of walk-in law enforcement needs. Lincoln and Magnolia stations will have community meeting rooms. For additional information please contact Riverside Police Lieutenant Chuck Griffiths, the North Area Neighborhood Policing Center Commander, at (951) 351-6045.

Resident #11

How can we make it safe for children to cross the streets at Pachappa Drive/Merrill Avenue and Riverside Avenue? People run the light, encroach in the crosswalks, etc.

As part of the Walk Safe, Drive Smart Program, a field review was recently completed at Pachappa Elementary School. As a result of this review, high visibility school warning signs shall be placed on Merrill Avenue and Riverside Drive. Pavement markings will also be refreshed. For additional information contact Senior Engineer Patti Castillo in Traffic Engineering at (951) 826-5148.

The Traffic Officers have been directed to monitor as staffing permits. Many schools have the same requests and we are limited in staff. The Traffic Officers placed the speedboard on Riverside just North of Sunnyside/Mono and found that 85 % of the drivers were within the 29mph range. For additional information please contact Riverside Police Sergeant Duane Beckman in the Traffic Division at (951) 351-6058.

Resident #12

- **Some of the walking street sidewalks are in disrepair; on these streets, trees are a tripping hazard. There are paint marks on the sidewalks, but no repairs have been made.**

Paint marks on the sidewalk at this location were not made by City crews but the location has been added to a work list. The site will be inspected by a supervisor and prioritized for repair. The Street Division has numerous sidewalk repairs that are scheduled on a contract program. When requests for repairs are reported, the sites are inspected and logged in to the system. Each citizen requesting repairs is contacted by a supervisor and given a target date of when repairs can expect to be completed. If repairs are being done in the same area, they will be grouped together to get maximum savings on costs. If you have further questions, you may contact Street Maintenance Supervisor Ken Jolly at (951) 351-6127.

- **The traffic on Elizabeth Street is moves very fast, as people try to detour around trains.**

Traffic Officers worked this area on several occasions during March and they found it difficult to work the area for speed violations, however, they did note the most prevalent violations were failure to stop for the posted stop signs. Traffic officers have conducted enforcement and they will continue to monitor the traffic and issue citations as needed. For additional information please contact Riverside Police Sergeant Duane Beckman in the Traffic Division at (951) 351-6058.

Resident #13

Coming out of the Riverside Plaza the left turn lane gets backed up on Merrill Avenue and Jurupa Avenue. Can a left turn and right turn lane be constructed for egress?

The left turn lane coming out of the Plaza is on private property. The Plaza recently hired two new traffic engineers to address the traffic problems that were not apparent during construction. The Riverside Plaza Management is committed to addressing all of the traffic problems, especially at the Merrill Avenue exit, and making other significant improvements. For additional information contact Patti Castillo in Traffic Engineering at (951) 826-5148 or Alex Kartalian at the Riverside Plaza at (951) 683-1066.

Resident #14

On Canyon Crest, trees are ripping up the sidewalks and driveways. Some of the problem Sycamore trees have been taken down. Where does someone turn to get the sidewalks repaired?

Street Division has numerous sidewalk repairs that are scheduled on a contract program. When repairs are reported to the Street Division (951) 351-6127, they are inspected and logged in on our system. Each citizen requesting repairs is contacted by a supervisor and given a target date of when repairs can expect to be completed. If repairs are being done in the same area, they will be grouped together to get maximum savings on costs. If you have further questions, you may contact Street Maintenance Supervisor Ken Jolly at (951) 351-6127.

Resident #15

Heard that there was a train whistles survey, which he never received. He lives very close to the train tracks and is concerned with how the automated whistles are working or not working.

The issue of the automatic horn system went before the City Council on March 22, 2005. Any decision to remove the automatic horn system has been postponed indefinitely, to allow the railroad companies to adjust the duration and direction of the horn sounds, to reduce its noise impacts to residents and businesses. The City Council's Transportation Committee will be provided an update 30 days after changes to the system are made. In addition, a community survey will be conducted to determine if changes and alteration to the train horn system are making a difference. The City is also exploring quiet zone opportunities, however, there is a significant cost, approximately \$500,000 per crossing, for installation. For additional information contact Senior Engineer Patti Castillo in Traffic Engineering at (951) 826-5148.